



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Marketing and
Regulatory
Programs

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

Veterinary Services

National Center for
Import and Export

Animals Program

4700 River Road
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DATE: March 14, 2001

TO: Area Veterinarians in Charge, VS
USDA Animal Import Centers

FROM: Karen James
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National Center for Import and Export

SUBJECT: Importation of Pets from Areas Affected with Foot and Mouth Disease

Due to the recent outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in the United Kingdom, Veterinary Services (VS) has imposed additional restrictions on the importation of animals into the United States originating from Countries affected with FMD. Although dogs and cats (pets) cannot become infected with the FMD virus, they can mechanically transmit the disease by carrying the virus on their feet, fur, and bedding. Therefore, we are advising pet owners to take the following precautions to prevent the introduction of FMD from pets entering the United States:

- The feet, fur, and bedding of the pets should be free of any excessive dirt or mud.
- The pet's bedding should be free of any straw, hay, or other natural bedding.
- The pet should be bathed as soon as it reaches its final destination.
- The pet should be kept separate and apart from all livestock for at least 5 days after entry into the United States.

If the owner has further questions, they should contact the U s Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, VS, Area Veterinarian in Charge in the State of destination.

Please relay this information to all VS personnel working at U.S. ports of entry, and request that they inform their Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) and U.S. Customs counterparts of these precautions.



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